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Majority of U.S. adults say democracy is on the ballot but they differ on the threat: AP-NORC poll

By A.SWENSON/L. SANDERS
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Roughly 3 in 4 American adults believe the upcoming presidential election is vital to the future of U.S. democracy, although which candidate they think poses the greater threat depends on their political leanings, according to a poll. The survey from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research finds that most Democrats, Republicans and independents see the election as "very important" or "extremely important" to democracy, while Democrats have a higher level of intensity about the issue. More than half of Democrats say the November election is "extremely important" to the future of U.S. democracy, compared to about 4 in 10 independents and Republicans.



Republican presidential nominee former President Donald Trump and Republican vice presidential nominee Sen. JD Vance, R-Ohio, arrive a campaign rally, July 20, 2024, in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Continued on Page 2

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Majority of U.S. adults say democracy is on the ballot but they differ on the threat: AP-NORC poll

Continued from Front

Democrat Pamela Hanson, 67, of Amery, Wisconsin, said she has grave concerns for the future of democracy in the country if Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump gets elected.

"His statements tend towards him being a king or a dictator, a person in charge by himself," Hanson said. "I mean, the man is unhinged in my opinion."

But Republican Ernie Wagner from Liberty, New York, said it's President Joe Biden's administration — of which Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democratic nominee, is a part — that has abused the power of the executive branch.

"Biden has tried to erase the student loans, and he's been told by the courts that it's unconstitutional to do that," said Wagner, 85. "He's weaponized the FBI to get at his political opponents."

The poll findings suggest that many Democrats continue to view Trump as a threat to democracy after he tried to overturn the results of the 2020 election, embraced the rioters who attacked the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, and threatened to seek retribution against his opponents if he wins reelection.

But they also indicate that many of Trump's supporters agree with him that Biden is the real threat to democracy. Trump and his allies have accused Biden of weaponizing the Justice Department as it has pursued charges against the former president over his effort to halt certification of the 2020 election and keeping classified documents, though there is no evidence Biden has had any involvement or influence in the cases.

Trump has framed himself as a defender of American values and portrayed Biden as a "destroyer" of democracy. He said multiple times after he survived an assassination attempt last month that he "took a bullet for democracy."

The poll, conducted in the days after Biden dropped out of the race and Harris an-



Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris and her running mate Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz arrive at a campaign rally in Philadelphia, Aug. 6, 2024.

nounced her campaign, is an early glimpse of Americans' views of a reshaped contest. Majorities of both Democrats and Republicans say democracy could be at risk in this election depending on who wins the presidency, responses generally in line with the findings when the question was last asked in an AP-NORC poll in December 2023. Hanson, the Wisconsin Democrat, said she worries Trump in a second term would use the conservative-dominated U.S. Supreme Court to overrule important freedoms. She also is concerned that he would fill his Cabinet with loyalists who don't care about the well-being of everyone in the country and defund agencies that regulate key functions of society.

But Wagner, the New York Republican, brushed off those concerns and pointed to Trump's time in office.

"When he was in the White House, we had peace, we had prosperity, we had energy independence," he said. "What's undemocratic about that?"

He said he didn't think Trump's intentions leading up to and on Jan. 6 were criminal.

"I just think he was misguided," Wagner said.

Some independents also are carefully considering the stakes of the upcoming election on the country's democratic future.

"I believe that this is the most important election of my lifetime," said 53-year-old Patricia Seliga-Williams of LaVale, Maryland, an independent who is leaning toward voting for Harris.

Seliga-Williams said she's barely scraping by on \$15 an hour as a hotel breakfast attendant and remembers Trump handling the economy and immigration well. But she didn't like it when he recently quipped that he plans to be a "dictator" on day one in office.

"We all know Donald Trump could run the country," she said. "But he's just too aggressive anymore, and I don't think I can trust that as a voter."

Not everyone agrees that this year's presidential election will be an inflection point for the country's democracy, offering starkly different reasons, according to the AP-NORC poll. About 2 in 10 Americans say democracy

in the U.S. is strong enough to withstand the outcome of the election no matter who wins, while another 2 in 10 believe democracy is already so seriously broken that the outcome doesn't matter.

The poll also shows the stakes of democracy in the election are felt more by older adults rather than younger ones. About half of adults 45 and older say the outcome of the election is extremely important for the future of democracy, compared to about 4 in 10 adults under 45. "Making the claim that the other candidate is trying to destroy democracy, it doesn't really land for me," said Daniel Oliver, 26, an independent from suburban Detroit. "I think that we have things in place that should safeguard against when you kind of play at destroying democracy. We have other branches of government. We have people that believe in voting. So, it would be hard for a candidate to take over and become some kind of dictator."

He said he'll be looking for candidates to talk about issues he's more interested in, such as reducing infla-

tion and investing in clean energy sources.

Biden and Trump spent months sparring over whose second term would be worse for democracy. The president nodded to the consequences when he ended his campaign last month, saying in his Oval Office address that "the defense of democracy is more important than any title." Harris has focused more on the concept of "freedom" in the early days of her campaign. She has said Trump's reelection could result in Americans losing the freedom to vote, the freedom to be safe from gun violence and the freedom for women to make decisions about their own bodies. Her debut campaign ad last month was set to Beyoncé's 2016 track "Freedom," and it has become a campaign anthem for her at rallies ever since.

Harris didn't mention democracy in her first two presidential campaign rallies, but she returned to the topic in remarks to Sigma Gamma Rho sorority members in Houston last week, saying "our fundamental freedoms are on the ballot, and so is our democracy." □

Associated Press

U.S. jury convicts Mozambique's ex-finance minister Manuel Chang in 'tuna bonds' corruption case

By JENNIFER PELTZ
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Former Mozambican Finance Minister Manuel Chang was convicted Thursday in a bribe conspiracy case that welled up from his country's "tuna bond" scandal and swept into a U.S. court. A federal jury in New York delivered the verdict. Chang was accused of accepting payoffs to put his African nation secretly on the hook for big loans to government-controlled companies for tuna fishing ships and other maritime projects. The loans were plundered by bribes and kickbacks, according to prosecutors, and Mozambique ended up with \$2 billion in "hidden debt," spurring a financial crisis.

"Today's verdict is an inspiring victory for justice and the people of Mozambique who were betrayed by the defendant, a corrupt, high-ranking government official whose greed and self-interest sold out one of the poorest countries in the world," Brooklyn-based U.S. Attorney Breon Peace said in a statement. Messages seeking comment were sent to Chang's attorneys and to Mozambique's embassy in Washington. Chang was his country's top financial official from 2005 to 2015.



Former Mozambican finance minister, Manuel Chang, is seen in court in Kempton Park, Johannesburg, South Africa, Jan. 8, 2019.

Associated Press

Chang had pleaded not guilty to the U.S. conspiracy charges. His lawyers said he was doing as his government wished when he signed off on pledges that Mozambique would repay the loans, and that there was no evidence of a financial quid-pro-quo for him. No sentencing date was set for Chang, 48. The charges carry the possibility of up to 20 years in prison, though sentencing guidelines for any given case can vary depending on a defendant's history and other factors.

Between 2013 and 2016, three Mozambican-government-controlled companies quietly borrowed \$2 billion from major overseas banks. Chang signed guarantees that the government would repay the loans crucial assurances to lenders who likely otherwise would have shied away from the brand-new companies. The proceeds were supposed to finance a tuna fleet, a shipyard, and Coast Guard vessels and radar systems to protect natural gas fields off the country's Indian

Ocean coast. But bankers and government officials looted the loan money to line their own pockets, U.S. prosecutors said. "The evidence in this case shows you that there is an international fraud, money laundering and bribery scheme of epic proportions here," and Chang "chose to participate," Assistant U.S. Attorney Genny Ngai told jurors in a closing argument. Prosecutors accused Chang of collecting \$7 million in bribes, wired through U.S. banks to European accounts

held by an associate. The only agreement Chang made "was the lawful one to borrow money from banks to allow his country to engage in these public infrastructure works," defense lawyer Adam Ford said in his summation. The public learned in 2016 about Mozambique's \$2 billion debt, about 12% of the nation's gross domestic product at the time. A country that the World Bank had designated one of the world's 10 fastest-growing economies for two decades was abruptly plunged into financial upheaval. Growth stagnated, inflation spurted, the currency lost value, international investment and aid plummeted and the government cut services. Nearly 2 million Mozambicans were forced into poverty, according to a 2021 report by the Chr. Michelsen Institute, a development research body in Norway. Mozambique's government has reached out-of-court agreements with creditors in an attempt to pay down some of the debt. At least 10 people have been convicted in Mozambican courts and sentenced to prison over the scandal, including Ndambi Guebuza, the son of former Mozambican President Armando Guebuza. □

EPA issues rare emergency ban on pesticide that damages fetuses

By MICHAEL PHILLIS
Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — For the first time in roughly 40 years, the Environmental Protection Agency used its emergency authority to halt the sale of a weed-killing pesticide that harms the development of unborn babies. Officials took the rare step because the pesticide DCPA, or Dacthal, could cause irreversible damage to fetuses, including impaired brain development and low birthweight. The agency struggled to obtain vital health data from the pesticide's manufacturer on time and decided it was

not safe to allow continued sale, EPA said in an announcement Tuesday. "In this case, pregnant women who may never know they were exposed could give birth to babies that experience irreversible lifelong health problems," said Michal Freedhoff, assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention. DCPA is mostly used on broccoli, cabbage and certain other crops and about 84,000 pounds were used on average in 2018 and 2020, officials said. In 2023, the EPA assessed the pesticide's risks and

found it was dangerous even if a worker wore personal protective equipment. The manufacturer had instructed people to stay off fields where the pesticide had been applied for 12 hours, but agency officials said it could linger at dangerous levels for more than 25 days. The pesticide is made by AMVAC Chemical Corp. The company did not immediately return a request for comment late Wednesday. In comments to the EPA earlier this year, the company said new protocols could help keep people safe. It proposed lon-



The sign for the Environmental Protection Agency is shown in Washington on Sept. 21, 2017.

Associated Press

ger waiting periods before workers enter fields where the pesticide was applied and limits on how much of the chemical could be handled. Federal officials said the company's proposed

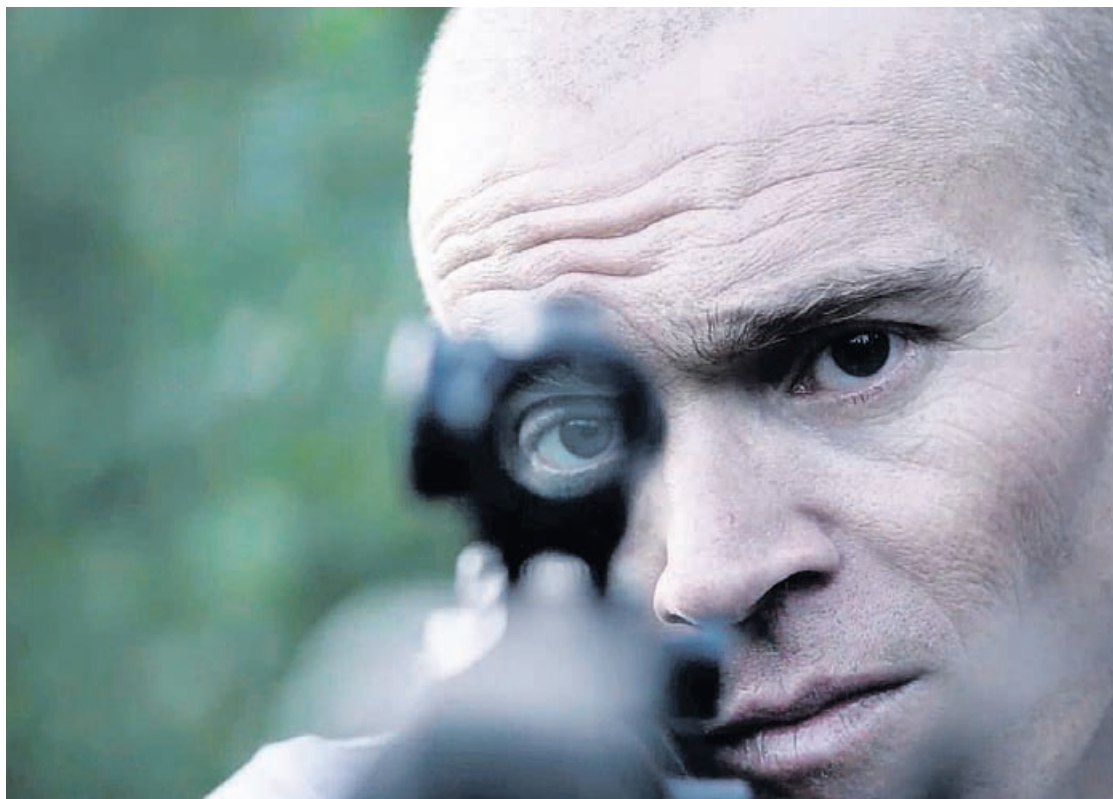
changes weren't enough. The emergency order was necessary because the normal review process would take too long and leave people at risk, according to the agency's statement. □

DNA on weapons implicates ex-U.S. Green Beret in attempted Venezuelan coup, federal officials say

By JOSHUA GOODMAN
Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Federal investigators say they found the DNA of a decorated former U.S. Green Beret on some of the 60 automatic weapons he allegedly smuggled from Florida to South America as part of a failed 2020 coup attempt against Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro.

The allegations were detailed in court papers filed days after Jordan Goudreau's arrest last week and contain the strongest evidence yet linking him to illegal arms trafficking that facilitated the amphibious raid, which ended with several fighters killed and two of Goudreau's former U.S. Special Forces colleagues locked away for years in Venezuela. The plot, exposed by The Associated Press two days before the incursion, was carried out by a ragtag group of Venezuelan army deserters whom Goudreau allegedly helped arm and train in neighboring Colombia. Goudreau later claimed responsibility for the putsch, but said he was acting in



In this photo provided by Neon, former U.S. Green Beret Jordan Goudreau holds an assault rifle in this undated photo from a documentary film being made about the combat veteran's involvement in a coup attempts against Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro.

concert with the Venezuelan opposition to protect democracy. He also said he was in touch with then-President Donald Trump's administration, which made no secret of its desire to see Maduro gone, even though there's no evi-

dence U.S. officials blessed the invasion. After Goudreau's arrest in New York last week, a federal magistrate initially allowed filmmaker Jen Gaten to put up her \$2 million Manhattan loft as bond to secure Goudreau's release. But prose-

cutors appealed and now it's up to a judge in Tampa, Florida, where Goudreau was indicted, to determine whether he should remain behind bars pending trial. Prosecutors arguing that Goudreau is a flight risk presented what they called

"overwhelming" evidence that he knowingly violated U.S. arms control laws, and that he tried to hide after learning he was under investigation. Those efforts including moving his bank accounts into cryptocurrency, obtaining a Mexican driver's license and allegedly sneaking back and forth across the U.S. border into Mexico and Canada, where he was born and lived until emigrating and enlisting in the U.S. Army. Internet searches on Goudreau's cell phone allegedly included "how to run and stay hidden from the feds," "how to be a successful fugitive on the run" and "what happens if I run from the law." Although the 48-year-old has no criminal record and was a three-time Bronze Star recipient in Iraq and Afghanistan, prosecutors argued he was both a danger to the public and a flight risk because of his firearms expertise, access to a sailboat at an Air Force base in Tampa and \$10,000-a-month in military retirement disability income. □

Associated Press

Third person dies in listeria outbreak tied to Boar's Head deli meats

By DEVNA BOSE
AP Health Writer

Three people have now died in a listeria food poisoning outbreak linked to Boar's Head deli meats, federal food safety officials announced Thursday, and the overall number of people sickened rose to 43. The additional death happened in Virginia, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said in a news release Thursday. The other two deaths were in New Jersey and Illinois. The CDC also said nine more cases were reported since a July 31 release about the outbreak, which started in late May.

Boar's Head recalled 7 million pounds of deli meats on July 30, expanding an initial recall on July 25 af-

ter a liverwurst sample collected by health officials in Maryland tested positive for listeria. The CDC said Thursday that a New York health officials tested a liverwurst sample and confirmed the same strain of listeria.

The recall includes more than 70 products including liverwurst, ham, beef salami and bologna made at the company's plant in Jarratt, Virginia.

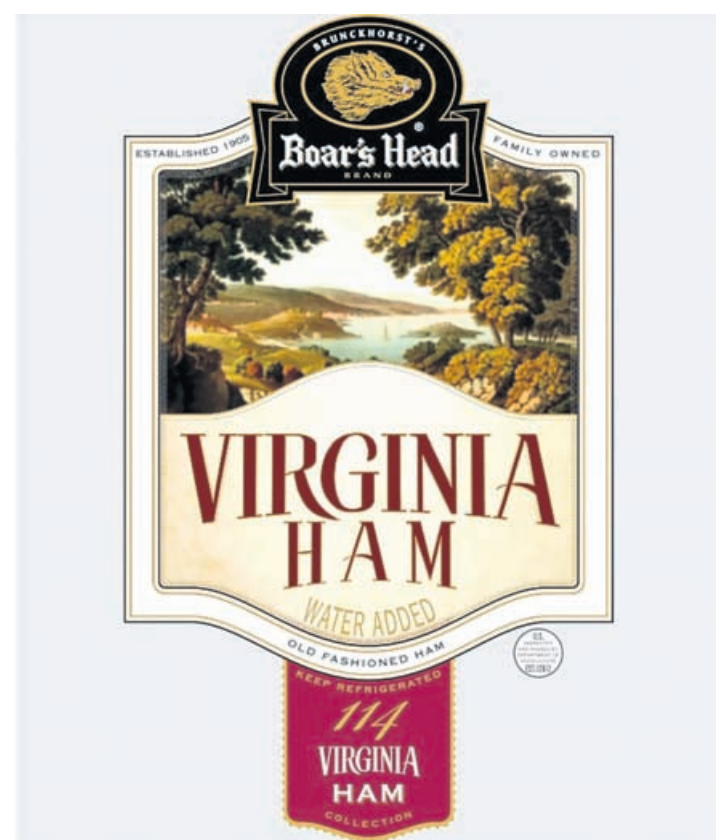
Boar's Head already faces two lawsuits over the outbreak, one in a Missouri court and the other a class action suit in federal court in New York.

The meat was distributed to stores nationwide, as well as to the Cayman Islands, the Dominican Republic, Mexico and Pan-

ama. Consumers should not eat the recalled meats and should discard them or return them to the store for a refund. Listeria bacteria can survive and grow in the refrigerator, so officials say people who had recalled products should thoroughly clean and sanitize the fridge to prevent contamination.

The CDC estimates 1,600 people a year get listeria food poisoning and about 260 of those people die.

The most common symptoms include fever, muscle aches and fatigue, though infections may also cause confusion and convulsions. Infections are most dangerous for people older than 65, people with weak immune systems and pregnant people. □



This image released by the Food Safety and Inspection Service, an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture, shows the product label for Boar's Head Virginia Ham meat, one of 71 products recalled as an investigation into a deadly listeria outbreak.

Associated Press

Ex-Catalan leader Puigdemont, a fugitive since 2017, returns to Spain. But then he vanishes again

By RENATA BRITO and
BARRY HATTON

Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)

— Police launched a manhunt in Barcelona on Thursday for fugitive Carles Puigdemont, a celebrated campaigner for Catalan independence who made a sensational return to Spain and an equally sensational getaway from a speech in the city with the alleged help of local police officers. The events took place nearly seven years after the ex-Catalonia leader fled Spain after a failed independence bid, with an outstanding arrest warrant pending against him.

Puigdemont had previously announced his intention to be in Spain on the day that Catalonia's parliament proclaimed a new president. The 61-year-old initially lived in Belgium after bolting from Spain in 2017, but his latest place of residence wasn't known.

Puigdemont kept his travel plans secret before setting out to the wealthy Catalan region in northeastern Spain. He gave a speech in front of a large crowd of supporters in central Barcelona under the noses of police officers, who made no attempt to detain him.

After his speech, in a cloak-and-dagger moment, Puig-



Catalan independence leader and former President Carles Puigdemont addresses supporters after his arrival near the Catalan parliament to attend the investiture debate in Barcelona, Spain, Thursday Aug. 8, 2024.

demont went into an adjacent marquee tent. There, he hurried out of an exit and jumped into a waiting car that sped away, according to an Associated Press photographer who witnessed his departure.

Catalan police arrested two of their own officers for their alleged involvement in Puigdemont's getaway, suspecting that the former leader used the private car of one of them, the force's press office told The Associated Press.

No further details were available.

After Puigdemont vanished, Catalan police called Mossos d'Esquadra checked vehicles across the city of around 1.6 million people and others heading on highways to neighboring France in an effort to nab him. The checks were called off hours later.

Puigdemont shared later a video of his speech on Instagram with the message "We're still here. Long live free Catalonia."

Officers initially held back from swooping to arrest Puigdemont out of concern the move might "cause public disorder," a police statement said. Officers tried to stop the fleeing vehicle, but were unable to do so, it said, though it added that further arrests were expected. The statement didn't elaborate.

The Catalan police force operates separately from Spain's Policía Nacional. At the time of the 2017 ballot, the Spanish govern-

ment suspended the Mossos' chief and placed the force under investigation for failing to stop the vote. The chief and his staff were eventually exonerated.

Puigdemont faces charges of embezzlement for his part in an attempt to break Catalonia away from the rest of Spain in 2017. As regional president and separatist party leader at the time, he was a key player in the independence referendum that was outlawed by the central government but went ahead anyway. Those events triggered a political crisis that roiled Spain for months.

Puigdemont's appearance in Barcelona, Catalonia's capital, and his game of cat-and-mouse with police, stole the show on a day when a new president was being proclaimed at the regional parliament.

Local police were deployed in a security ring around a section of the park where Catalonia's parliament building is located behind walls, and where Puigdemont was expected to go after his speech.

Meanwhile, the politician, wearing a dark suit, white shirt and tie, walked with supporters to the nearby stage where he gave his speech. □

Top U.N. official tells Security Council that Islamic State group, affiliates gaining power in Africa

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — A top U.N. counterterrorism official told the Security Council on Thursday that a vast stretch of Africa could fall under the control of the Islamic State group and affiliated terrorist organizations.

There was no known link between an alleged plot to attack Taylor Swift shows in Vienna and the group or its affiliates elsewhere in the world, but both suspects appeared to be inspired by the Islamic State group and al-Qaida, Austrian authorities said Thursday.

In a regular report to the

council, Vladimir Voronkov, the undersecretary for counterterrorism, told members that IS group affiliates have "expanded and consolidated their area of operations" in West Africa and the Sahel.

A "vast territory stretching from Mali to northern Nigeria could fall under their effective control" if their influence continues, Voronkov said.

He said that IS group affiliates have also expanded operations in other parts of the continent, including parts of Mozambique, Somalia, and the Democratic

Republic of the Congo, which saw a "dramatic increase in terrorist attacks" that killed large numbers of civilians.

Voronkov told the council that ISIS-K, the group's Afghanistan affiliate, has "improved its financial and logistical capabilities" in the last six months and increased recruitment efforts.

He said IS has demonstrated its global intent by claiming responsibility for ISIS-K attacks and increasing operations in Iraq and Syria. □



Islamic State militants pass a checkpoint bearing the group's trademark black flag in the village of Maryam Begg in Kirkuk, 180 miles north of Baghdad, Iraq, Sept. 29, 2014.

Associated Press

Deforestation in Brazil's Amazon rainforest is down to lowest level since 2016, government says

By **FABIANO MAISONNAVE**
Associated Press

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP) — Deforestation in Brazil's Amazon rainforest slowed by nearly half compared to the year before, according to government satellite data released Wednesday. It's the largest reduction since 2016, when officials began using the current method of measurement. In the past 12 months, the Amazon rainforest lost 4,300 square kilometers (1,700 square miles), an area roughly the size of Rhode Island. That's a nearly 46% decrease compared to the previous period. Brazil's deforestation surveillance year runs from August 1 to July 30.

Still, much remains to be done to end the destruction and the month of July showed a 33% increase in tree cutting over July 2023. A strike by officials at federal environmental agencies contributed to this surge, said João Paulo Capobianco, executive secretary for the Environment Ministry, during a press conference in Brasília.

The figures are preliminary and come from the Deter



Smoke rises from a forest fire in the Transamazonica highway region, in the municipality of Labrea, Amazonas state, Brazil, on Sept. 17, 2022.

satellite system, managed by the National Institute for Space Research and used by environmental law enforcement agencies to detect deforestation in real-time.

The most accurate deforestation calculations are usually released in November.

President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva has pledged "de-

forestation zero" by 2030. His current term ends in January 2027.

Amazon deforestation has steeply declined since the end of far-right President Jair Bolsonaro's rule in 2022. Under that government, forest loss reached a 15-year high.

About two-thirds of the Amazon lies within Brazil. It remains the world's larg-

est rainforest, covering an area twice the size of India. The Amazon absorbs large amounts of carbon dioxide, preventing the climate from warming even faster than it would otherwise. It also holds about 20% of the world's fresh water, and biodiversity that scientists have not yet come close to understanding, including at least 16,000 tree species.

Associated Press

During this same period, deforestation in Brazil's vast savannah, known as the Cerrado, increased by 9%. The native vegetation loss reached 7,015 square kilometers (2,708 square miles) an area 63% larger than the destruction in the Amazon. The Cerrado is the world's most biodiverse savannah, but less of it enjoys protected status than the rainforest to its north.

Brazil's boom in soybeans, the country's second-largest export, have largely come from privately-owned areas in the Cerrado.

"The Cerrado has become a 'sacrificed biome.' Its topography lends itself to mechanized, large-scale commodity production," Isabel Figueiredo, a spokesperson with the nonprofit Society, Population and Nature Institute told The Associated Press.

Both Brazilians and the international community are more concerned about forests than savanna and open landscapes, she said, even though these ecosystems are also extremely biodiverse and essential for climate balance. □

Israel's Western allies slam Israeli minister's remark that Gaza starvation may be justified

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's Western allies have condemned remarks by the country's far-right finance minister who suggested that the starvation of Ga-

za's population of more than 2 million Palestinians "might be just and moral" until hostages captured in Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on southern Israel are returned

home.

Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich said in a speech on Monday that Israel had no choice but to send humanitarian aid into Gaza.

"It's not possible in today's global reality to manage a war no one will allow us to starve 2 million people, even though that might be just and moral until they return the hostages," he said at a conference in support of Jewish settlements.

Smotrich, a key partner in Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's governing coalition, supports the reoccupation of Gaza, the rebuilding of Jewish settlements that were removed in 2005, and what he describes as the voluntary migration of

large numbers of Palestinians out of the territory.

The European Union on Wednesday condemned his remarks, noting that the "deliberate starvation of civilians is a war crime."

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell called the remarks "beyond ignominious," saying "it demonstrates, once again, his contempt for international law and for basic principles of humanity."

David Lammy, Britain's new foreign secretary, said "there can be no justification for Minister Smotrich's remarks."

"We expect the wider Israeli government to retract and condemn them," he wrote on the social media

platform X.

Germany's ambassador to Israel, Steffen Siebert, called the remarks "unacceptable and appalling."

"It is a principle of international law and of humanity to protect civilians in a war and to give them access to water and food," he wrote on X.

Egypt's foreign ministry on Thursday also condemned Smotrich's remarks, describing them as "shameful statements unacceptable in form and substance" and a violation of international humanitarian law. Such "irresponsible statements" create incitement against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, the ministry added. □



Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich speaks at the Knesset, Israel's parliament, in Jerusalem, on July 10, 2023.

Associated Press

Aruba: the legend behind its name

(Oranjestad)—Most folkloric tales and legends in Aruba revolve around our indigenous ancestors, who came from mainland Venezuela, and discovered the island and made it into their new home. This particular legend tells the story of the birth of the Aruba name.

The legend follows the life of Arua, an indigenous Cacique originally from Aroa in the Falcon state in Venezuela in the year 50 AD. Arua had a son around the year 70 AD with his wife Shira, who they named Corobori. When Corobori was old enough, he joined his father on the usual boat trip to the islands of Curacao and Bonaire to gather salt.

On their way back to Mainland Venezuela, they were caught up in a heavy rain storm—a side effect from a passing, but far away, hurricane. Of course, because of the lack of motors and sail, their boat was left in the mercy of the heavy winds. After a while, the storm started to pass, and the clouds began to clear up. Finally able to see around them, the Cacique spotted land approximately an hour away. So, they started to row in that direction until they reached the coast.

Once they arrived on what they thought was Venezuela, they decided to stay the night and fix their kayak. The next morning, the Cacique ordered his son and a few warriors to go find any sign of population in the area: "Corobori," Arua said. "Don't come back without news. It's in your hands how long we stay here till we find our family. So, if you need to take a week to gather information, we will wait for you."

"Don't worry," Corobori replied. "As soon as we have any information, we will let you know." Armed with arrows and spears, backpacks filled with food and water containers, they set off. They climbed several small hills, but no sign of a village. They crossed different dry riverbeds, but no sign of anything. When the sun finally descended, they found themselves near a fairly tall hill and decided to climb it for a better view of a village. This hill was called Pan Dushi or Orcuyo, which today we call Hooiberg.

The next morning, they could clearly see that they have landed on an island, but an unfamiliar one at that. When Corobori went back to where his father was waiting, he told him the news: "Father Arua, you have just discovered an island, but it is not Curacao or Bonaire. Far in the south, we saw the big mountains of our homeland Venezuela, which we could have never seen on the other island. This leads us to believe we are on a new island. But that's not all. When the sun came up, we saw in the distance a glowing plain, which we think may be salt."

The Cacique was pleased to hear of his son's findings. He decided to stay a couple days on the newly-discovered island in search for salt. The next morning they ascended Hooiberg again and stayed to see if they could find nearby smoke, indicating an inhabitant village. But they found nothing. So they went back to their initial arrival settlement, now known as Santo Largo in Savaneta. The next morning they hiked along the Spaans Lagoen near the Mangel Halto Beach and reached the area of Bushiri. There, they boarded their kayaks and heading to what we know now as Malmok, where they found rocks of salt. After a couple days of exploring the island and gathering some salt rocks, they left for Venezuela, where they were reunited with their families.

Throughout the year, they travelled back and forth to Aruba, collecting salt. After a while they settled on the island, generations of families living along the coast. Corobori was the first indigenous inhabitant in our history to explore the entirety of the island.

Arua, after decades as the leader of his tribe, spent his last days on the island. Having reached 80 years old, he called for his family on his death bed. In his hammock, he said: "My children, many years have passed, and I've asked my warrior to bring me back to the island so I can laid to rest. The God of living has given me the gift of life to see my son, grandchildren and great grandchildren. But now he is calling me home. Corobori, my torch is now passed to you. Guide our people, and be the leader you were always meant to become. If one day you leave my island, do not forget that it is also yours. This is my last wish: When I die, bury me in our maize plantation."


And so when the Cacique passed away, his wishes were granted and he was laid to rest in the area we now know as the Paradera Cemetery. Where he used to live, they built the Paradera Church.

And that is the tale of what inspired the Aruba name. In the generations that lived or travelled back and forth to the island, there were many familiar names*, like Guadiriki, a warrior who was there when the island got discovered and his son, whom he called Huliba; Corobori and his children, Corodori, Camacuri and Turibana, Masiduri; and Malmok, the 13-year-old boy who alerted the Cacique when the Caribes attacked.

Familiar names: all these names are familiar to Arubans, as these are the names of places and plants on the island.

Source: Un storia di e Indjan Arua (A story of the Indian Arua) by Adolf (Dufi) Kock






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Aruba Tourism Authority honored a loyal visitor at Costa Linda Beach Resort!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing a Goodwill Ambassador. The honoree was respectfully honored with a certificate for his years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three levels of honor are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
 Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
 Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honoree was:

Goodwill Ambassador
 Mr. John Cullen from Port Deposit Maryland, United States.

Ms. Marouska Heyliger representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Costa Linda Beach Resort bestowed the certificate upon the honoree, presented him with gifts, and thanked him for choosing Aruba as his favorite vacation destination, as his home away from home.



he top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honoree was:

- Aruba's people.
- Aruba's sun.
- Aruba's beautiful white sand.
- Aruba's restaurants.

- Aruba's Weather.

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honoree for his continued visits to the "One Happy Island". ☐

The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and its history

(Oranjestad)—The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins is one of the most visited places by tourists on the island, as it lies along the northern coast line near the mini pool and on the way to the Natural Bridge. Despite its seemingly plain appearance, this ruin represents one of the most

important histories of the island: The Aruban Gold Rush.

Built in 1872 by English company Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd, the gold mill at Bushiribana was constructed in the area where most gold was found by locals. The story of gold on

Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when a first exploration for gold on the island was commissioned by the Dutch West India Company. Under the leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail. Though they found some gold, it was enough to motivate a further search, and the assignment was discontinued by Printz himself.

It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young boy found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep. His father took it to a local merchant who then sold the lump for \$70. Unbeknownst to the boy and his father, they quite literally struck gold, and as word

got out, a gold fever spread among the locals who started searching for more gold. About 25 pounds worth was found.

At the same time, the Aruban government took immediate actions, and informed Curacao that gold was found. At first, everyone could look for gold, as long as they sold it to the government. However, after some time, the government decided to implement stricter rules and banned local search parties.

Over the years, concession-holding had seen different companies from around the world, all of which used primitive methods to dig and carve out gold from

the rocks. Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was no different, but used a unique method that involved grinding the rocks and letting the dust be blown away by the strong northeast wind, leaving clumps of gold behind. The next step was melting the gold and letting it attach to quicksilver in order to obtain pure gold. All these processes were done at the Bushiribana Gold Mill.

The gold mill itself had a short life-span: only 10 years in service, but its structure remained relatively solid till this day, and is now a historical remnant.

Sources: Etnia Nativa & gold-mineranch.com.



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The Aruba Tourism Authority honor loyal visitors on the island

Recently, Ms. Marouska Heyliger had the great pleasure to honor a Loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba at their home away from home.

The honorees:

Linda Montecchi and Diane Schmitt as Emerald Ambassadors from New Jersey.

The symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba between 10-20-35 and more consecutive years.

Ms. Marouska Heyliger thanked them for choosing Aruba as their vacation destination and as their home away from home for so many years together with the members of La Quinta resort.

Top reason for returning provided by the honorees were: The people of the island, the wonderful weather and warm beautiful beach of Aruba and safety. □



Forgotten gems Open air movie theaters

(Oranjestad)—During the span of over 100 years, Aruba only saw five open air movie theatres. Now practically obsolete on the island, these theaters were once frequently visited by locals and migrants in the 20th century.

The first open air theater was constructed in 1920 and was commissioned by Shon Eduard (Eddy) de Veer. This theater was located at the Hotel Co-

lombia in Oranjestad, which is now where the Aruban census office is located. The theater was simple; it only consisted of a screen, and visitors had to bring their own chairs to enjoy the popular silent movies of the time.

American migrants who worked in the refinery and lived in the Lago Colony in Sero Colorado also had their piece of the pie with their

Open air Theatre, which formed part of the Esso Club, also known as the Pan-Am Club. It was at this theater that "Talkies" were first streamed, movies with sound. This theater mostly streamed American blockbusters for the American expats, this way making sure that these migrant were not missing out on entertainment from their home land.

In the 1950's and 60's, Savaneta saw their own open air theater, located in front of the Marinier's Kazerne (Marine Barracks). This theater was mostly visited by the neighboring marines, who didn't have much entertainment other than movies at that time.

The last and most recent open air theater was constructed in the form of a drive-in theater. A popular American concept, the Drive Inn located in Balashi

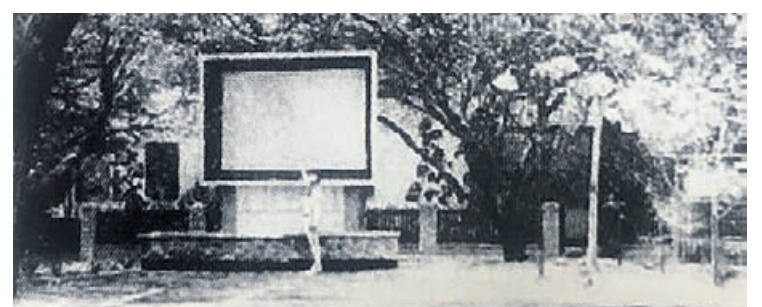
was a hot spot for teenagers, who had the habit of cramming all their friends in one car to go see the movies. For this phenomenon there was a separate price that you had to pay called the "car crash".

This theater closed around 2012, but was re-opened during the pandemic in July 2020, where movies were streamed on a gigantic screen set up in front of stacked containers. However, this nostalgic form of entertainment did not last very long as it was closed again only a year or two later.



Nowadays you can still see the stacked containers when you drive near the bridge in Balashi. □

Source: "De kolibrie op de rots en meer over de geschiedenis van Aruba" by Evert Bongers.





Prohibited by law: leaving the island with seashells, white sand or corals

(Oranjestad)—Often times, the customs department at the airport intercepts many tourists leaving the island with seashells, white sand and/or corals as souvenirs.

Conforming to the international treaty of CITES and our local law which protects our Flora & Fauna, it is absolutely prohibited to take any seashell, sand and coral outside of Aruba. This is to protect our environment. The high number of seashells, coral and amount of sand confiscated is very strange and it is suspected that our own locals are the ones selling these to the tourists, which is unacceptable.

Upon confiscation at the airport, you can also face a fine that they have to pay before leaving. This is surely not a pleasant experience for the tourist. This also leads to a negative reaction which can put our tourism in a negative light.

Though we love to accommodate our visitors, let's all give nature the respect it deserves by protecting our environment. Stop collecting seashells, white sand and corals from our shores and stop buying or accepting these from local sellers or companies.

We want our future generations and visitors to enjoy the beauty of our beaches, shells and corals in a sustainable way, without destroying or disrupting the Aruban ecosystem. Help us protect what is ours! □

Episode CXLV - 145 Aruba Ancestral Island

Our ultimate goal is to create cultural awareness, promote education, and safeguard our heritage as a sacred seed for renewal, revival and reinvention, guiding our readers to become new guardians of these ancient lands.

The ancestral characteristic of the territory is having right to the land, as collective property enjoyed by the native communities who, in Aruba, are descendants of ancient farmers from the tropical forests of South America, Arawak-speaking people who reached the continental coastal areas and then populated the islands of the Caribbean Sea. Evolving in to highly organized autonomous nations which were very prosperous and completely sustainable.

Aruba's legendary Caquetio tribe where the people who signed an early treaty with the Spanish crown.

Their indigenous territories covered an geographical area demarked by perma-

nent sacred, social, economic and cultural boundaries inclosing the habitat for and for the peoples activities. Farming corn, beans, squash, yucca, peanuts, tropical vegetables, fruits, cotton. Exploiting the riches of the mangrove forests and the great variety of fruits of the sea.

Must imagine that Aruba's landscape was covered with a great amount of flora and general conditions were much more favorable than today. The landscape and topography of the island in many areas offered perfect layouts that formed zones where people could walk for hours under Aruba's mequite forest canopy, trees that blocked sunlight. Although a small island, there were open grasslands or savannas covered with cacti and xerophytes, while other areas were made wetlands and salt pans.

A rough estimate of 72% of what remained of a forest covering Oranjestad in

the 17th century (starting in the Cumaná area, near the airport, extending up Ponton Hill) were large and ancient Kwihi trees (Prosopis Juliflora) with diameters of 4 to 6 feet of which not a visible trace has been left for the next generations, as a green approach is not considered by revenue seekers

For the indigenous people, the territory is the embryo that gave rise to the existence of their cultures, morality and their right to own their identity.

For the indigenous the relationship with his territory is extremely essential and vital for their existence as a community. Today the responsibility falls on those heirs of these original inhabitants, to raise awareness of these unfathomable resources that could be lost forever. These indigenous arubans are those who are advocating for a cure for the world and empower by legislating recognition and protection to those descending of the old



ones, guardians of our ecosystem and endangered heritage for the next generations to come.

The value of indigenous peoples rights is in their knowledge since this plays a fundamental role in environmental management and development, due to their traditional way and existential practices. Reasons why States must recognize and support their identity, culture and interests which with no doubt facilitate and support sustainable development at its core. So benefits in preserving the island's culture are enormous and critical to keeping Aruba's history alive. This is essential for the construction of identity, collective memories and the mindset of belonging to the natural world.

To conserve this native culture heritage, it is necessary to create a registry that contains the relationship of the different peoples existing in Aruba and implement dissemination strategies to make the society aware of the customs morality of the people.

If you love Aruba its origins and its cultural heritage, be part of the exclusive visitors of this cozy home-atelier called "Etnia Nativa". This private residential houses collections of native art, archaeological artifacts and historic furniture, while the facilities themselves are the result of the transformation of recycled materials.

Meet the acclaimed columnist at home! Book your visit Whatsapp + 297 592 2702- or mail: etnianativa03@gmail.com. □



Article by: Etnia Nativa

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In celebration of 200 years of the Aruban gold rush: Get to know the history of the gold industry on Aruba



(Oranjestad)—This year we celebrate a few milestone anniversaries on Aruba, one of them being the 200th anniversary of when gold was first discovered on the island. We have talked about the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruin before and its brief history during the gold industry on Aruba, but get to know a little more about the history of the “Aruban Gold Rush.”

The first hint of gold on Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when rumors about gold being found in dug up treasure chests of the Spanish colonial era prompted the first official exploration for gold on the island, commissioned by the Dutch West India Company. Under the leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail. Though they found some specks of gold, it was not enough to motivate a further search, and the assignment was discontinued by Printz himself. It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young farmer boy named Willem Rasmijn found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep in the area of Rooi Fluit on the north coast. His father took it to a local merchant who then sold the lump for \$70. Unbeknownst to the boy and his father, they quite literally struck gold, and as word got out, a gold fever spread among the locals who started searching for more gold.

When the colonial governor in Curacao, Governor Cantz'laar, heard about the news, he sent his adjutant, Capitan van Raders, to start harvesting gold. This was in July 1824. In August of that same year, the governor followed suit to the island, accompanied by high-ranking military officials. When citizens started swarming the area in search for gold, The Netherlands sent more troops to safe guard the gold.

Prominent places where gold was found was in Daimari, Wacobana, Arikok, Rooi Fluit, Hadicouradi and later West punt, where gold ore was found. Because of a lack in advanced technology and materials to harvest the gold, the process took a more primitive approach: Clay rocks containing traces of gold were left to dry in the sun. Then, workers would start chipping the clay away on a large canvas to catch the gold particles that were left behind after the wind blew away the dust from the clay.

In the harvest period of 1824-1825, there was a total of 71,000 kilos collected through commissioned harvesting. Locals themselves reportedly found about 25 pounds worth of gold in the nearby rivers. The following years after that first big harvest, commission work fell off, and in 1828, the director of the goldmines, Johan Gravenhorst, decided to halt harvesting.

Almost 40 years later, the London-based Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was granted concession. The firm built their gold mines on Bushiribana, and in the port of Oranjestad a long road that connected the gold mill to the port. The ores themselves came from Sero Plat en Sero Cristal.

By this point, workers were still using primitive methods to harvest the ores. For example, when someone had to go into the mines, there were no stairs or lifts; the person had to be brought down in a big bucket, with two or more workers holding the bucket by a thick rope above ground. Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. reportedly operated until 1899, and right after the Aruba Gold Concession Ltd. was established, coincidentally also based in London. This time, the gold mill in Balashi was built, and more mines were dug up all around the island. The gold ores that were found were transported via track engine, locally called the “trekinchi”. Despite being more equipped for the job, the Aruba Gold Concession Ltd. could not produce any real profit, and so the concession was terminated just eight years later, in 1908.

A local firm, the “Aruba Goud Maatschappij” (Aruba Gold Company) took over the concession, along with all the materials and equipment. In the beginning, the company saw good profit, and for a while, the island's economy depended primarily on the mining and harvesting of gold. But just like its predecessors, the streak of luck for the Aruba Gold Company came to an end when WWI broke out.

The main reason why production stopped this time was reportedly because of a lack in dynamite for extracting the ores from the mines, as well as a lack in raw materials like German cyanide for the refining process. By the time the war ended, the equipment that was left at Balashi were too old to use again. After the war, gold production on the Aruba was left to a standstill.

According to an issue in Aruba Esso News paper in 1953, Henny Eman wanted to start up digging again, this time using independent miners. He argued that there was proof of more gold to be discovered. Plus, hiring independent miners would boost the island's employment rate.

When it was proven that gold was in fact still present, the executive board on the island promised to fund the project only if the gold dug up proved to be valuable. However, nothing else was reported after this, so it could be concluded that there was no real profitable market on the island anymore.

The ruins of the Bushiribana and Balashi Gold Mills are still standing, and open for the public to visit. These structures offer a glance into the past, to a time where Aruba experienced one of its first wave of industrialization. Today, these structures are persevered as historical monuments. □

Source:

1. “De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over the geschiedenis van Aruba)” by Evert Bongers.
2. Aruba Esso News, 1953 issue.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

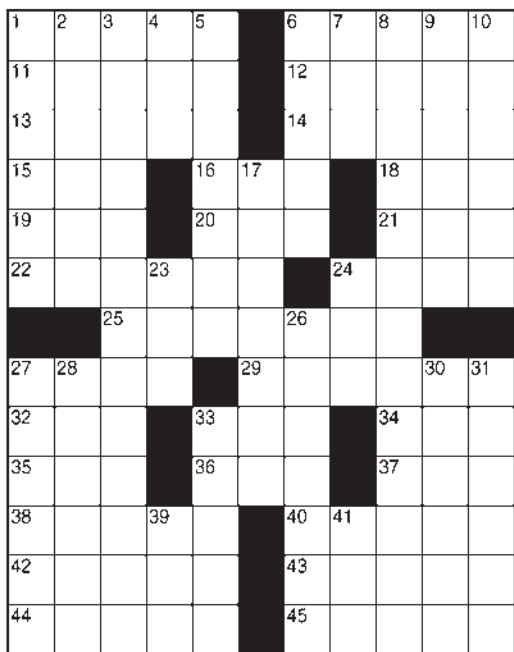
- 43 "Wake Up, Little —"
1 Recurring theme
6 Grating sounds
11 Game setting
12 Dizzying designs
13 Bulletin board items
14 Piper of rhyme
15 Blasting letters
16 Summer shirt
18 Moody music
19 Swelled head
20 Includes in an email
21 Jar part
22 Airport car
24 Pub pints
25 Tel Aviv native
27 Pool tool
29 Foot part
32 Artist Jean
33 Tattoo setting
34 Earth-bound bird
35 Suffering
36 Can. neighbor
37 WSW, for one
38 Traded
40 Fence crossing
42 Door sign

DOWN

- 1 Be important
2 Grove fruit
3 Lithosphere part
4 Squid's squirt
5 Racer, e.g.
6 Lassos
7 Gibbon, for one
8 Reception aid
9 Baby born early, for short
10 Razor sharpeners
17 Bakery treats
23 Chiding sound
24 Green and Gore
26 As a group
27 Corporate shark
28 Francis of TV
30 Designer Pucci
31 Makes baby food, maybe
33 Singing cowboy Gene
39 Was a pioneer
41 Boy king of Egypt



Yesterday's answer



5-17

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

5-17

CRYPTOQUOTE

IE SKXY BEO WXT, SAYK

SKXY BEO'HU CEY, SKUPU

BEO XPU. — YUIIB PEEZUHUMY

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THERE IS A SINGLE LIGHT OF SCIENCE, AND TO BRIGHTEN IT ANYWHERE IS TO BRIGHTEN IT EVERYWHERE. — ISAAC ASIMOV

Cruise ship Schedule: August 6 - 27 2024

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
TUE	06	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS CARNIVAL HORIZON CARNIVAL MARDI GRAS	08.00 09.00 13.00	20.00 22.00 23.00	B C I	1 1 1
WED	07	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	09.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	13	CELEBRITY BEYOND CARNIVAL CELEBRATION CARNIVAL VISTA	08.00 08.00 13.00	21.00 22.00 23.00	B C I	1 1 1
THU	14	ENCHANTED PRINCESS	08.00	18.00	C	1
WED	20	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	22.00	C	1
WED	27	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	C	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Supermarket hours



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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24/7

July ends 13-month streak of global heat records as El Nino ebbs, but experts warn against relief

By **ALEXA ST. JOHN**
Associated Press

Earth's string of 13 straight months with a new average heat record came to an end this past July as the natural El Nino climate pattern ebbed, the European climate agency Copernicus announced Thursday. But July 2024's average heat just missed surpassing the July of a year ago, and scientists said the end of the record-breaking streak changes nothing about the threat posed by climate change.

"The overall context hasn't changed," Copernicus deputy director Samantha Burgess said in a statement. "Our climate continues to warm."

Human-caused climate change drives extreme weather events that are wreaking havoc around the globe, with several examples just in recent weeks. In Cape Town, South Africa, thousands were displaced by torrential rain, gale-force winds, flooding and more. A fatal landslide hit Indonesia's Sulawesi island. Beryl left a massive path of destruction as it set the record for the earliest Category 4 hurricane. And Japanese authorities said more than 120 people died in record heat in Tokyo.

Those hot temperatures have been especially merciless.



People cool off at a cooling mist spot on July 4, 2024, in Tokyo.

Associated Press

The globe for July 2024 averaged 62.4 degrees Fahrenheit (16.91 degrees Celsius), which is 1.2 degrees (0.68 Celsius) above the 30-year average for the month, according to Copernicus. Temperatures were a small fraction lower than the same period last year.

It is the second-warmest July and second-warmest of any month recorded in the agency's records, behind only July 2023. The Earth also had its two hottest days on record, on July 22 and July 23, each averaging about 62.9 degrees Fahrenheit (17.16 degrees Celsius). Copernicus had

previously identified July 21 and 22 as the hottest days, but changed that based on updated data.

During July, the world was 1.48 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer, by Copernicus' measurement, than pre-industrial times. That's close to the warming limit that nearly all the countries in the world agreed to in the 2015 Paris climate agreement: 1.5 degrees.

El Nino which naturally warms the Pacific Ocean and changes weather across the globe spurred the 13 months of record heat, said Copernicus senior climate scientist Julien Nicolas. □

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San Nicolas: Tel. 584 5712

OTHER

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Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
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EMERGENCY

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Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
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Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

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Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
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A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

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Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

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FAVI- Visually Impaired
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Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia Relacional Tel. 583 5400
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'Alien: Romulus' actors battled lifelike creatures to bring the film back to its horror roots

By KAITLYN HUAMANI
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO, Calif. (AP) — While filming "Alien: Romulus," Cailee Spaeny didn't have to dig too deep to muster up sheer terror. She was often facing off against real creatures on set or as close to real as they could get. Under director Fede Álvarez, a prominent horror filmmaker, the actors played opposite animatronic and puppet alien creatures, including the famed "face huggers" and the dreaded xenomorph. "From an acting standpoint, it's such a gift because you're not having to act against a tennis ball, so it's right there. There's less work you have to do," Spaeny said in a recent interview. Spaeny said using practical effects whenever possible was a priority for Álvarez from the beginning of the film's production. "It needed that kind of close encounter feeling of seeing that the actors are in the same environment with whatever's the threat," Álvarez, known for "Evil Dead" and "Don't Breathe," said. "It works



This image released by 20th Century Studios shows Xenomorph in a scene from "Alien: Romulus." Associated Press

not just for the audience, but for us, as well. When it comes to making the movie, it just makes everything way more complicated, but I think it makes for better movies." The lifelike creatures and commitment to practical effects proved to create a chilling final product at least for those in the crowd at

Comic-Con International, who were treated to some extended scenes and clips during a panel promoting the movie. The audience of over 6,000 people gasped and cheered during the scenes, which Álvarez said he edited deceptively to avoid spoilers ahead of the Aug. 16 theatrical release. To accomplish the practi-

cal effects, Álvarez enlisted a team of filmmakers who have worked with the infamous Stan Winston, the special effects artist known for his work in the "Terminator" series, the first three "Jurassic Park" films and, of course, "Aliens." Several of the behind-the-scenes creatives on "Romulus" have worked on previous "Alien"

movies including Ridley Scott, who is a producer on the upcoming movie. "From a film lover's standpoint, these guys they're responsible for some of the best creatures in Hollywood, so to have them around it sort of adds to the joy of what filmmaking and entertainment is all about. That was just a real treat," Spaeny said. "I think it makes such a difference, not just for the actors and the crew making the movie, but hopefully for the audience, as well." Despite recruiting "Alien" alums behind the scenes, casting fresh actors who aren't readily associated with larger-than-life characters was important to Álvarez. "Romulus" is nestled between "Alien" and its sequel, "Aliens," but Álvarez has made clear that the new film is a standalone. He said he valued giving every audience member, regardless of whether they've seen any other "Alien" movies, a "full meal" as they watched "Romulus," ensuring no one felt like they were missing any key details. □

Philippe Petit recreates high-wire walk between World Trade Center's twin towers on 50th anniversary

NEW YORK (AP) — Fifty years after his iconic high-wire walk between the twin towers of New York's World Trade Center, Philippe Pe-

tit recreated the death-defying stunt with a performance about 7 miles north of the trade center at the Cathedral of St. John the

Divine. The artist, 74, sought to celebrate the "glorious days of the twin towers" rather than focus on their tragic end in a terrorist attack on Sept. 11, 2001.

"I don't have to remind people of the doomed day," Petit told The Associated Press after Wednesday's performance. Petit said he aimed to honor both his remarkable feat and the legacy of the towers.

"It adds a certain significance when you discuss a legend or a piece of history, even when the object of that history is no longer present. That's the miracle of memory," Petit said. The performance, titled "Towering!!," recreated

Petit's unauthorized walk between the towers on August 7, 1974. After ascending to his perch inside the cathedral and reflecting on the day's memories, Petit took to the wire while Grammy-nominated jazz clarinetist Anat Cohen played beneath him.

As Petit continued his daring walk, Sting took the stage to perform "Fragile." Later, Petit donned a sequined gold tunic while "Fields of Gold" played in the background.

Petit harnessed the stunning visual and acoustic splendor of the world's largest Gothic cathedral to recreate the grandeur of his historic walk 1,300 feet (400 meters) above the ground. Conceived and

directed by Petit himself, the production featured a series of short scenes that brought his 1974 feat to life. Petit was arrested after crossing the towers and depicts that in the performance, which continues for a second night on Thursday.

At one point in the show, while reflecting on the success of the Oscar-winning documentary "Man on Wire," which chronicled his famous walk, Petit admitted that he handled success poorly, including distancing himself from his friends.

"I was really bad to my best friend Jean-Louis Blondeau, who has been the mastermind more than me on this adventure," Petit said. □



Philippe Petit walks a tightrope inside the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine to mark the 50th anniversary of his World Trade Center Twin Towers high-wire walk, on Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2024, in New York.

Associated Press

Growing number of NFL teams are deciding joint practices don't need to last beyond a single day

By **STEVE MEGARGEE**
AP Sports Writer

The first week of joint practices at NFL training camps included one player getting carted off the field and two teams getting fined \$200,000 each for excessive fighting.

Those events have lent credence to the notion that joint practice sessions don't need to last longer than one day, an idea growing in popularity. After nearly 80% of the 2023 joint practices lasted two days, over two-thirds of the sessions this year are one-day affairs.

"One, to me, is plenty," New York Jets coach Robert Saleh said.

The argument against two-day joint practices is that the second day often is chippier and increases the possibility of injuries.

Atlanta wide receiver Rondale Moore was carted off the field with a leg injury Wednesday as the Falcons practiced against the Miami Dolphins for a second straight day. Also Wednesday, the NFL fined the New York Giants and Detroit Lions \$200,000 each for multiple fights that stretched across their two days of practicing against each other.



Atlanta Falcons wide receiver Drake London (5) catches a pass ahead of Miami Dolphins cornerback Kendall Fuller (29) during an NFL joint football practice at the team's practice facility, Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2024, in Miami Gardens, Fla.

The NFL sent out a memo last month stating fights and unprofessional conduct at joint practices wouldn't be tolerated. Packers coach Matt LaFleur noted earlier in this offseason that "sometimes it becomes a wrestling match out there or an MMA fight" when joint practices extend to a second day.

"Every time I've ever had a joint practice, the first day will be a little rough and then the second one ends

in a fight," Packers running back Josh Jacobs said.

The problems with this week's Falcons-Dolphins and Giants-Lions joint practices didn't necessarily result from both lasting two days.

Moore suffered an apparent non-contact injury, so it just as easily could have happened if the Falcons had been practicing on their own. Much of the fighting between the Giants and Lions, including

one brawl that injured Detroit cornerback Emmanuel Moseley, happened on their first practice day rather than their second.

NFL teams are permitted to hold joint practices for as many as four days during training camp, and those can be divided in any way possible. For instance, the Los Angeles Rams are holding four separate one-day sessions against three different teams.

The Rams held their first joint

workout with the Los Angeles Chargers on Sunday, and they'll meet again on Aug. 14. The Rams practiced with the Dallas Cowboys on Thursday and have a session with the Houston Texans on Aug. 22.

Rams quarterback Matthew Stafford said after Sunday's workout that he likes limiting joint practices to one day.

"I think there's probably less fights, which is good," Stafford said. "You know, the second day is when everybody kind of gets a little charged up and gets going."

It also has been when some notable injuries have occurred.

Saleh's Jets were in a second day of joint workouts with the Packers three years ago when defensive end Carl Lawson ruptured his Achilles tendon and safety Zane Lewis hurt his knee, knocking both players out for the entire season.

Saleh shortened the Jets' two scheduled two-day joint practices last year to a single day each. The Jets practiced against the Washington Commanders on Thursday and have one-day sessions with the Carolina Panthers on Aug. 15 and the Giants on Aug. 21. □

Associated Press

Nick Foles, who led Eagles to their only Super Bowl victory, announces his retirement

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Nick Foles, who led the Philadelphia Eagles to their only Super Bowl win during his 11-year NFL career, announced his retirement on Thursday.

The 35-year-old Foles was a third-round draft pick by the Eagles in 2012 and played five years over two stints in Philadelphia.

"I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to retire as a Philadelphia Eagle," Foles said in a statement released by the team. "The City of Brotherly Love has always felt like home to me as an NFL player.

Philadelphia is a city I truly love, and it has been an

honor to wear the Eagles jersey."

Foles' career reached its height after he replaced an injured Carson Wentz late in the 2017 regular season and was named Super Bowl MVP after leading the Eagles to a 41-33 win over Tom Brady and the New England Patriots.

He threw for 373 yards and three touchdowns but is best remembered for the "Philly Special." On fourth and goal inside the Patriots 5, Foles floated from behind center to behind the right tackle before the snap, leaving running back Corey Clement alone in the backfield.

Clement took the snap and Foles hesitated before running undefended into the end zone. Clement pitched to tight end Trey Burton, who flipped a short pass to Foles for a 22-12 halftime lead.

"Nick Foles always carried himself with the utmost class and integrity, demonstrating through his actions, both on and off the field, what it meant to be a Philadelphia Eagle," team chairman and CEO Jeffrey Lurie said.

"He was the ultimate competitor, an inspiring teammate, a true representative of our city, and, of course, a Super Bowl champion." □



Philadelphia Eagles' Nick Foles holds up the Vince Lombardi Trophy after the NFL Super Bowl 52 football game against the New England Patriots, Sunday, Feb. 4, 2018, in Minneapolis.

Associated Press



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The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba encourages Responsible Gaming.

COVID-stricken Noah Lyles finishes 3rd in 200 meters won by Botswana's Letsile Tebogo

By **EDDIE PELLIS** and **PAT GRAHAM**
AP Sports Writers
SAINT-DENIS, France (AP)

— Noah Lyles lost the Olympic 200 meters Thursday, falling to Botswana's Letsile Tebogo, then being tended to by medics who carted him off the track in a wheelchair. Later, wearing a mask as he spoke with reporters, Lyles said he had COVID.

After crossing the line third for the second straight Olympics, Lyles fell to his back and writhed in pain, staying down for nearly 30 seconds before getting up, asking for water and getting to the wheelchair. "It definitely affected my performance," he said.

An hour after that shock, Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone lowered her world record for the sixth time, finishing the 400-meter hurdles in 50.37 seconds for another

Olympic blowout.

The hurdler expected to challenge her hardest, Femke Bol, finished third,

behind American Anna Cockrell, who finished 1.5 seconds behind McLaughlin-Levrone.

This is McLaughlin-Levrone's second straight gold and also the second straight Olympics the virus has

played a major role in Lyles' trip to the Games.

He also won the bronze in the Tokyo Olympics, and he has said the empty stands and the year-long delay before the Games led to depression that hampered his performance and inspired his road to Paris. Lyles said he tested positive early Tuesday morning and quickly got into quarantine. "I still wanted to run," he said. "They said it was possible."

The U.S. track federation released a statement saying it and the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee adhered to all Olympic and Centers for Disease Control guidelines.

"After a thorough medical evaluation, Noah chose to compete tonight," the statement said.

"We respect his decision and will continue to monitor his condition closely." □



Letsile Tebogo, of Botswana, wins the men's 200-meters final at the 2024 Summer Olympics, Thursday, Aug. 8, 2024, in Saint-Denis, France.

Associated Press